

THE NEWS - RECORD

Hot Springs ABC Unit Responds To Criticism

By BOB TERRELL
Citizen Staff Writer

Stung by repeated accusations of irregularities in the operation of its liquor store, the Hot Springs ABC board has made a strong defense of its operation to Dr. L. C. Holsouser, chairman of the State Board of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

R. W. Ponder, chairman of the Hot Springs ABC Board, which includes T. A. Russell and a Catholic priest, F. Jeff Burton, refuted charges of nepotism, conflict of interest, and inflated salaries in a letter to Dr. Holsouser.

"We can't understand why they keep pushing this thing," said C. E. Anderson, supervisor of the Hot Springs ABC store in which he and his brother, Fred Anderson, are the only employees.

"Our house is in order," Ponder said. "We know the laws under which our system is to operate and we enforce these laws. We have complied

with the new rulings set down by the new state board and would now like to be left alone to go about the business for which we are designated."

Anderson said he felt many of the accusations directed against his operation were purely political. "After all," he said, "we are in Madison County, and you know how many persons feel about Madison County. We're fair game for anyone who wants to take a political shot at us. But that doesn't make us criminals. We're trying to run a sound ABC operation here. That's all."

On the charge of nepotism, which simply means favoritism shown to relatives, Ponder wrote Dr. Holsouser: "Being brothers has nothing whatsoever to do with the fact that they work in the same store. One brother did not hire the other. This board claims that authority. To state that brothers cannot work together

in the same store is the same as robbing them of their constitutional rights."

He added that "it is very difficult in our town of 1,000 citizens to find personnel who are willing to undertake the duties that have been assumed by our store employees."

Ponder told Dr. Holsouser that he has knowledge that brothers and a father and son are working together in other ABC stores in the state. "There seems to be no interest from your board concerning these systems," he said.

Concerning conflict of interest, Ponder said C. E. Anderson had held the dual positions of chairman of the board and supervisor of the Hot Springs ABC System for 10 years until last spring when a ruling came down that holding both positions constituted conflict of interest, and Anderson, like many other men around the state, resigned one of the jobs. He gave up the chairmanship of the board.

"You have requested that the salaries of these two men be reduced to \$6,000," Ponder wrote Dr. Holsouser. "This is absurd. In 1963, C. E. Anderson began working for the ABC store as supervisor at the salary of \$6,000 a year, and over a ten year period has worked up to his present salary of \$13,800. In 1967, Mr. Fred Anderson began working for the ABC store at the salary of \$11,400.

"These men perform the duties of porter, warehouse man, clerk, secretary, book keeper, assistant manager, and supervisor. They work without the benefit of sick leave, medical insurance, life insurance or retirement benefits. These two men are in complete charge of the operation of the store. They regularly work 13 hours a day, six days a week. We feel strongly that their salaries are a substantial savings for our system rather than out of proportion."

Ponder said Dr. Holsouser had also questioned decreasing sales at the Hot Springs store and C. E. Anderson explained:

"One of the main reasons our sales decreased 30 per cent in 1967-68-69," he said, "was because the Madison County Sheriff's Department placed deputies at the Gulf station across the street from the ABC store and these deputies stopped and harassed most of our customers."

"Another factor was that Interstate 40 was opened, bypassing traffic around Hot Springs. Since that time, in the past three years, our sales have leveled off. Our sales for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1973, were greater than for the year ending June 30, 1972."

Anderson said the Hot Springs store's sales decreased in May and June of this year, and attributed this "to the mess that the new

State ABC Board has made by changing the state warehouse."

"We have not been able to receive adequate merchandise," he said, "since February of this year. Our last shipment, Friday, July 20, was exactly 10 percent short. Shipments before this have been short as much as 25 percent. If you don't have the merchandise to sell, you'll soon be out of business."

He cited figures to show that the Hot Springs store, since it opened through June 30, 1972, has made a net profit of \$132,658, distributed as follows: \$44,219.31 to Madison County, \$42,008.39 to the Town of Hot Springs, \$33,164.50 to Hot Springs School, \$6,632.90 to Spring Creek School, and \$6,632.90 to Hot Springs law enforcement. Also, he said, the state of North Carolina has received \$247,958.76 from the Hot Springs store.

"That," said C. E. Anderson, "is the view from this end. We just wanted to get it on record."



THE NEW DIRECTOR of the COP poses with his staff. Standing left to right, Dr. Hough, Mrs. Logan Delaney, associate director, James A. Clark, Associate Superintendent of Asheville City Schools; Seated, Mrs. Zenobia Jones, COP secretary.

COP Moves Into Fourth Year At Mars Hill College

MARS HILL. — The Career Opportunity Program will move into its fourth year with a new director. The new director is Dr. John M. Hough, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at Mars Hill College and one of the authors of the original COP proposal. Hough, an alumnus of Mars Hill College when it was a two-year school, received his bachelor's degree from Wake Forest University. He received both his masters degree and Doctor of Education degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Hough formerly was chairman of the Education Department at the Baptist-related college, being named to the Associate Dean's position last year. As Associate Dean, he oversaw the entire admissions operations as well as directed the summer school and the one-month, one-course January Short Term. Since the program started in the summer of 1970, 27 graduates will have earned their college degrees by this August. "We began the Career Opportunity Program with three goals in mind," commented Hough.

"First, we needed elementary school teachers. There was a scarcity of elementary teachers at the time we began the program. Secondly, we needed people who could relate to the problems of inner city students and the third area was to provide aid to those who wanted to enter the program and thereby increase their own income as well as help us solve our problem." The students are employed during the regular school year as teacher aides in the Asheville city schools, Buncombe County schools, and Madison County schools, with

six students employed at the Orthopedic Hospital's school. Model City has been paying the salary of the 32 students-teacher aides in Asheville with the rest of the students' salaries being paid by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

Since the students put in a full day during the regular school term, they carry a reduced academic load. However, they do receive credit for several courses while assisting the classroom teacher, and attend others in the late afternoon and evening. In the summer, the students carry a full academic load and recent changes in summer school allow them to carry more hours than had normally been allowed.

Hough was also excited with the addition of Mrs. Logan Delaney to the staff. "She is well acquainted with the program and its objectives," commented Hough, "and will bring her experience into the program when it is needed most."

That the program is working can be seen by the low number of drop-outs. "We've only had one or two fall by the wayside," observed Hough, "and none of these were due to academic problems." Hough attributes this to the fact that the students are older than most college students, more settled, and less likely to leave the program because of the benefits in salary and in the need they see themselves filling in the school systems. Superintendent W. P. Griffin has been extremely pleased with the results of the program and has commented that COP "has provided us with excellent teachers in a most difficult area."

Holsouser Hears Plea For Region B

By JAY HENSLEY
Citizen-Times Staff Writer

BREVARD — Executive action to expedite Lead Regional Organization (LRO) status for North Carolina's Region B Planning and Development Commission was urged here and in Hendersonville Saturday as Gov. Jim Holsouser wound up his three-day "people's tour" of mountain counties.

Holsouser made no promises about a specific course of action, and told one questioner he isn't sure the roadblock to Region B's LRO status lies within the State Department of Administration.

Transylvania and Henderson are two of the four counties in Region B. The others are Madison and Buncombe counties. Asheville and a number of other municipalities within the four counties are also part of the state's Region B Planning and Development Commission.

And of the 17 regions in the state, it is the only one that has not been designated as lead regional organization with authority to handle such federal funds as those coming down to local governments on a regional basis from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Those funds are now handled by the Asheville-Buncombe County Metropolitan Planning Board, and hostilities between the smaller units of government and MPB have fanned the

fires of controversy at times. However, an agreement was worked out more than a week ago between Region B officials and MPB which appeared to have settled that problem, and most observers since that time have insisted that the next step toward qualifying the planning and development commission for LRO status is up to the State Department of Administration.

A letter to Holsouser, along with a copy of the agreement, was dispatched the day the resolution was adopted.

But the governor said Saturday neither the letter nor the resolution have come to his attention. "I'm not sure that all the hangups are in the Department of Administration. It's been a long time coming," Holsouser said of Region B's LRO status, and referring to the fact that efforts for it were unsuccessful during Gov. Bob Scott's administration.

Holsouser was replying to questions from William Primm at a courthouse stop in Hendersonville. Primm is a Republican, and a member of the executive board of Region B Planning and Development Commission.

Primm was urging Holsouser to take a personal hand in the matter and get the commission off the ground by ordering LRO status for it. The Henderson County official said past disagreements with Asheville's MPB should be set aside and a working relationship established "so we can go on from here. Our people are getting a little uptight," he said.

Here in Brevard at the Transylvania County Courthouse stop James W. Simpson sounded more than a little up tight about the Region B controversy.

Simpson, a secondary member of the planning and development commission, urged the governor to take action in the matter and said that while urban-rural problems have been a part of the trouble, politics is at the heart of the matter.

He said the organization is now "working beautifully," and only "petty politics injected by one outsider" is blocking final action.

Simpson was referring to State Sen. Charles Taylor of Brevard, who has been accused by others of holding up action on the request. Holsouser told a reporter Saturday that the charge against Taylor is false.

Mrs. Gentry Is Appointed To S. S. Board

Mrs. Beulah Norris Gentry of Marshall has been appointed as a member of the Madison County Board of Social Services effective July 1, 1973. She was appointed as the fifth member of the Board by the other four members. Mrs. Gentry succeeds Mrs. Geneva James whose term expired June 30th.

Mrs. Gentry has previously worked at the French Broad Chevrolet Co as bookkeeper. She is the wife of Edward Gentry and has three children.

At the July board meeting Mrs. Christine Stamey Keener of Route 2, Hot Springs was elected chairman of the board for the coming year. Mrs. Keener was appointed to the Board by the State Board of Social Services and has served five years.

Other members of the Board are Dr. R. Bruce Sams of Mars Hill, Knox Brigman of Marshall and Burns Cook of Route 3, Marshall.

Recent additions to the staff of the Social Services Department are Donald F. Harrell of Mars Hill, Social Worker, and Mrs. Jonas Chandler of Mars Hill, typist.



D. M. ROBINSON, former Manager of French Broad Electric Membership Corporation, has been selected by the U. S. Department of Agriculture to attend the First National Rural Development Leaders School to be held on the campus of the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska, August 5-11, 1973. Mr. Robinson was selected from over 600 applicants because of his interest in rural development and his leadership ability. He has played a very important role in the field of rural development in Western North Carolina, including social, economic, and industrial growth which has effected the lives of many people in this area.

McLeod Is Speaker At Historical Society

John A. McLeod of Mars Hill reviewed the historical background of the western counties at the summer meeting of the Madison County Historical Society held on Saturday, July 21, 1973, at the Marshall School picnic shelter. McLeod described the gradual movement into the western area of settlers and the motives behind the moves. The first "free" group in North Carolina were the signers of the Abington Declaration which was signed on January 20, 1775. This became the Watauga settlement. The English and west European Origin of many of the settlers to this region is evident in family names, many of which have altered both in spelling and pronunciation. Mobility and indifference account for great loss of information on families, and McLeod urged families of this area to put to record all family history known to living members. Origins and activities or events will be lost forever unless those now living are willing to preserve facts. Historians encounter considerable indifference today in events that are important to history.

Reasons for moving into the area that is now Madison County were varied: most were men of integrity and pride and were possessed of strong drive and ambition to make a good life for their families; some sought a place safe from the conflicts of the Civil War (no battles were fought in the area and the wilderness provided perfect protection); some were deserters and came simply to hide out until the war ended. The stories of life in these mountains during the years of the Civil War make material for countless volumes—no other area was more divided on the issue. McLeod drew on the available for comparing various versions of some of the stories, and incidents of searching out

the men who refused to go to war was well as stories of sacrifice and survival were related. Existing written records are being sought for verifying others.

Of interest to county residents is the fact that Mars Hill is the oldest educational center in Western North Carolina in existence. In conclusion, McLeod described the evolution of county lines as they exist today and old ties that influence habits of residents today.

The county organization was established "to preserve knowledge of the history of Madison County and its environment and of the inhabitants and to encourage, promote and assist the preservation of historical sites, monuments, buildings, and to encourage appropriate marking of such places or things to aid the public in finding, identifying and appreciating them!" Members were asked to assist and direct families to provide "loose-leaf" paper histories for the use of the society.

The next meeting of the society will be on September 15, 1973, at 2 p.m. at Wolfe-Laurel when a study will be made of the people and events who pioneered and developed that area of the county. Dr. Evelyn Underwood of Mars Hill is president, and Mrs. Frances Buckner, Route 7, Marshall, is Secretary.

Mars Hill Receives \$40,625.00

Mayor William P. Powell announced this week that he had been notified from the State Clean Water Bond Proceeds Office that the Town of Mars Hill will receive \$40,625.00 which will be used in the water system project.



JUNK CAR REMOVAL VEHICLE for Madison County is now in operation and will be in the Mars Hill area next week. Anyone desiring their junk car to be picked up may call 689-2301 (Mars Hill City Hall). This continuous service is being sponsored by the Madison County Health Department. A complete schedule of junk car pickups will be published later.

License Tag Office To Remain In County

It was announced this week by Joe L. Morgan, chairman Madison County Republican Executive Committee, that an automobile license tag office would continue in the county in a geographically centralized location under the management of a local person who will soon receive two

weeks of training in Raleigh. An announcement will be made later relative to the new seller of tags and where the office will be located within the county. It was further stated that the economy of the county and the convenience of the public are fundamental considerations in retaining the auto tag office in the county.

Helms Asks Nixon To Lift Beef Freeze

Washington — U.S. Senator Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) has called on President Nixon to lift the price freeze on beef. Helms told the President in a letter that many of the 8,600 restaurants in North Carolina have had their orders for beef canceled by midwest suppliers.

"Dire circumstances have resulted in the restaurant business in North Carolina," Helms wrote, "and I am sure, every other state."

Helms said most of the restaurants in his state have about a seven day to two week supply. He noted that North Carolina has over 200 beef specialty restaurants that will have to close when the supply on hand is gone.

He said suppliers have indicated that cattle producers are withholding their cattle from the market awaiting the scheduled September 12 lifting of the freeze.

"That means that North Carolina restaurants may not be able to serve beef for well over a month," Helms told the President. "Many economically marginal firms will undoubtedly fail while under their handicap and more than two hundred beef specialty houses will close abruptly during this period."

Helms says this could lead to temporary or permanent

unemployment for at least 4,000 food workers. "I strongly urge you to exempt beef from the price freeze immediately and to classify it with other raw agricultural products under the Phase IV regulation," Helms told the President.



COACHING STAFF of the Madison High School "Patriots" is pictured above. Left to right, Ronnie Wallin, John Fisher, Roy Yates Ammons, Head Coach; Charles Tolley and Gene Hall. The "Patriots" will open the 1973 season on August 24 against Harris High at Spruce Pine.